

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action corresponds to application 10/675,265 which was filed on 9/29/2003.

Claims 1-39 in this application have been allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the specification appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Specification

In light of MPEP 608.01(b), requirements of the abstract are disclosed (emphasis on original):

An Abstract of the Disclosure is a concise statement (single paragraph, maximum: 150 words) of the technical disclosure including that, which is new in the art to which the invention pertains.

At present, the abstract is not limited to a single paragraph. Accordingly, with respect to the present application, the abstract is herein amended to a single paragraph. Please replace the existing abstract with the following:

Disclosed is a technique for processing predicates in an iterator function. When an iterator function included in a statement is invoked, one or more predicates included

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in the statement are obtained. The one or more predicates are applied to a row of data. If applying the one or more predicates results in a match, the row of data is returned. If applying the one or more predicates does not result in a match, a search is performed for another row of data for which application of the one or more predicates results in a match. Also disclosed is a technique for processing predicates in which a statement including an iterator function and one or more predicates is received. A qualification descriptor that describes the one or more predicates and one or more functions that are to be used to evaluate the one or more predicates is created. Then, the iterator function is invoked one or more times, until receiving a done indicator from the iterator function.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The application is allowable for the reasons set forth on pages 9-13 of the decision of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, which is hereby incorporated by reference. As noted therein, and as argued on page 10 of Appellant's brief, the claimed invention requires, an iterator function included in a statement being invoked and that, when invoked, obtains one or more predicates included in the statement whereas the closest prior art (Andrei, U.S. Patent 6,801,905 B2) merely mentions an iterator tree and calling into lower-level routines which does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT TIMBLIN whose telephone number is (571)272-5627. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ROBERT TIMBLIN/
Examiner, Art Unit 2167

/John R. Cottingham/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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